



Robert Greene Sterne
Edward J. Kessler
Jorge A. Goldstein
David K.S. Cornwell
Robert W. Esmond
Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
Michele A. Cimbala
Michael B. Ray
Robert E. Sokohl
Eric K. Steffe
Michael Q. Lee
Steven R. Ludwig
John M. Covert
Linda E. Alcorn
Robert C. Millonig
Lawrence B. Bugaisky
Donald J. Featherstone
Michael V. Messinger

Judith U. Kim
Timothy J. Shea, Jr.
Patrick E. Garrett
Jeffrey T. Helvey
Heidi L. Kraus
Edward W. Yee
Albert L. Ferro
Donald R. Banowitz
Peter A. Jackman
Molly A. McCall
Teresa U. Medler
Jeffrey S. Weaver
Kendrick P. Patterson
Vincent L. Capuano
Albert J. Fasulo II
Eldora Ellison Floyd
Thomas C. Fiala
Brian J. Del Buono

Virgil Lee Beaton
Kimberly N. Reddick
Theodore A. Wood
Elizabeth J. Haanes
Bruce E. Chalker
Joseph S. Ostroff
Frank R. Cottingham
Christine M. Lhullier
Rae Lynn Prengaman
Jane Shershenovich
Lawrence J. Carroll
George S. Bardmesser
Daniel A. Klein
Rodney G. Maze
Jason D. Eisenberg
Michael A. Specht
Andrea J. Kaniage
Tracy L. Muller

Jon E. Wright
LuAnne M. Yuricek
Registered Patent Agents
Karen R. Markowicz
Nancy J. Leith
Ann E. Summerfield
Helene C. Carlson
Gaby L. Begsworth
Matthew J. Dowd
Aaron L. Schwartz
Angelique G. Uy
Boris A. Matvenko
Mary B. Tung
Katrina Y. Pei
Bryan L. Skelton
Robert A. Schwartzman
John J. Figueroa

Timothy A. Doyle
Jennifer R. Mahalingappa
Teresa A. Colella
Jeffrey S. Lundgren
Victoria S. Rutherford
W. Brian Edge

Senior Counsel
Samuel L. Fox
Kenneth C. Bass III
Lisa A. Dunner

*Admitted only in Maryland
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January 27, 2003

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:
(202) 371-2637

INTERNET ADDRESS:
KAREN.M@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Via Hand-Carry to
Examiner Joseph Weitach
Group Art Unit 1632

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/653, 277; Filed: August 31, 2000
For: **Cell-Specific and/or Tumor-Specific Promoter Retargeting of Herpes
Gamma 34.5 Gene Expression**
Inventors: Chiocca and Chung
Our Ref: 0609.4880002/JAG/KRM

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Fee Transmittal Form (PTO/SB/17);
2. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1);
3. Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 along with Exhibit A;
4. Copy of the listed references cited on Form PTO-1449 filed November 1, 2000
(38 sheets);
5. Copy of the references listed on Form PTO-1449 filed November 1, 2000
(116 references);
6. Form PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of **\$205.00** to cover the extension of time fee (*small entity*); and
7. Return postcard.

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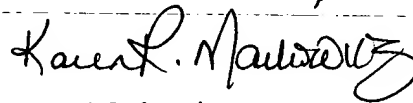
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It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Karen R. Markowicz
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 36,351

KRM/pcd
Enclosures

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